

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

June 20, 2007

The Honorable George W. Bush  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We are writing today to express our opposition to H.R. 65, the Lumbee Recognition Act, and to respectfully urge you to veto this bill should it come to the White House for your consideration.

We believe tribes seeking to obtain federal recognition should go through the process established by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) to ensure they meet the seven mandatory criteria for federal acknowledgment, and not circumvent this process by legislative action.

Other area tribes, outside historians and the BIA raise questions about this tribe circumventing the official recognition process. On April 18th, 2007, Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs Carl J. Artman testified, "The Administration strongly supports all groups going through the Federal acknowledgement process under 25 CFR Part 83." H.R. 65 would circumvent this process.

Assistant Secretary Artman also stated, "H.R. 65 may raise a constitutional problem by purporting to require the President to submit annually to the Congress as part of his annual budget submission a budget that is recommended by the head of an executive department for programs, services and benefits to the Lumbee. Under the Recommendations Clause of the United States Constitution, the President submits for the consideration of Congress such measures as the President judges necessary and expedient."


H.R. 65 would confer tribal status on over 53,000 people in North Carolina at a five year cost of over \$480 million without the input of the genealogists, historians and anthropologists who specialize in this complex area at the BIA's Office of Federal Acknowledgment. We believe the integrity of the established tribal recognition process must be preserved. When Congress enters into the area of granting tribal status, it does so based more on politics and emotion rather than merit.

Given the extraordinary consequences of federal recognition, it is particularly important for the process to be fair, objective and transparent. We respectfully urge you to veto this bill, so Congress can pass legislation allowing the Lumbee tribe to petition for tribal status under the BIA's acknowledgment regulations.

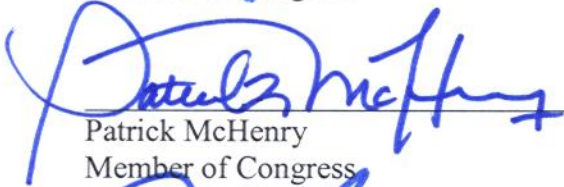
Sincerely,




Christopher Shays  
Member of Congress



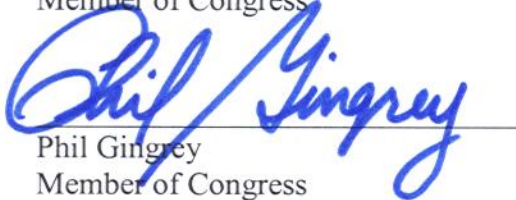
Heath Shuler  
Member of Congress



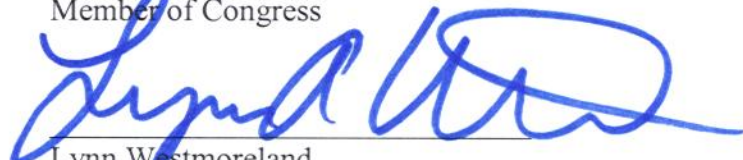
Patrick McHenry  
Member of Congress



Virginia Foxx  
Member of Congress



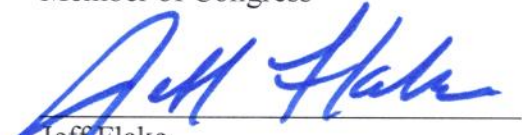
Phil Gingrey  
Member of Congress



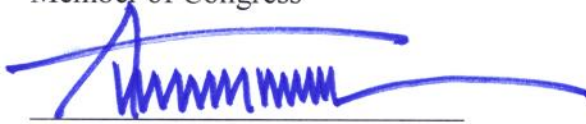
Lynn Westmoreland  
Member of Congress



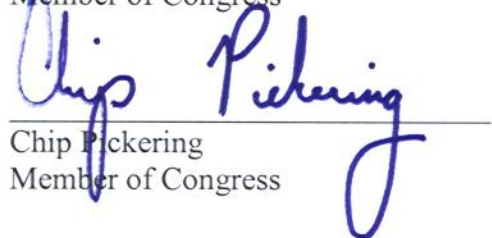
Walter B. Jones  
Member of Congress



Jeff Flake  
Member of Congress



Ted Poe  
Member of Congress



Chip Pickering  
Member of Congress



Albio Sires  
Member of Congress